

A Healthy Environment at NIEHS

A recent award is evidence of the fact that the NIEHS is dedicated not only to environmental health but to the health of the environment. The institute was honored by the Department of Health and Human Services for having the best and most innovative recycling program of its numerous agencies. The NIEHS, located in Research Triangle Park, is DHHS's 1995 nomination for the White House "Closing the Circle Award" for the best overall solid-waste recycling program at a federal site, facility, or operation.

The NIEHS recycling program has reduced the amount of incinerated waste at the institute over the past 2 years by 32%, while recovering approximately 18,000 pounds of recyclables each month and providing a use for some nonrecyclable paper from the community. The institute actively promotes resource-consciousness through vigorous employee education and information campaigns. The NIEHS also makes use of recycled-formulated products. Orange Recycling Services, a local small business, collects, processes, and markets the recyclable materials.

Kenneth Olden, NIEHS director, praised the Environmental Awareness Advisory Committee at the NIEHS, which oversees the recycling program. "This recognition acknowledges very intensive efforts over several years. The institute is justly proud of the excellent program that the committee has so energetically developed."

Carson Motivates Minorities

"Turn off the television and read," Benjamin Carson, director of Pediatric Neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions, exhorted 300 minority students recently at the NIEHS, recalling the



Motivating mentor. Benjamin Carson, director of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Medical Institution, receives a standing ovation from students following his talk.

way in which his mother encouraged him to excel. Carson spoke as part of the North Carolina Health Careers Access Program (NC-HCAP) of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The mission of NC-HCAP is to interest racial and ethnic minority and disadvantaged students in pursuing careers in the health professions and to enhance students' opportunities to gain access to and excel in formal higher education. Carson, a world-renowned physician and surgeon who was raised in a single-parent home and experienced negative peer pressure, urged stu-

dents to excel academically despite such obstacles.

Marian Johnson-Thompson, director of the Office of Institutional Development at the NIEHS, said, "This is the second seminar of this type that we have hosted to impress upon high school students that pursuing careers in science and medicine isn't the province of some privileged group. Completing school, going on to further education, and taking some of the more difficult courses can mean spending the rest of your life doing work that you love and enjoy. This is an important message for young people to hear."

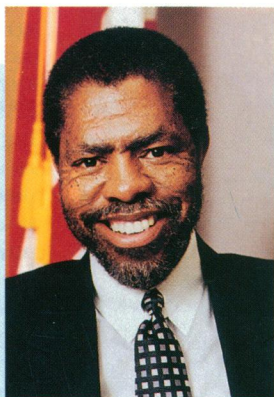
Olden Receives National Departmental Award

Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala presented the Secretary's Distinguished Service Award to Kenneth Olden, director of the NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program, "in recognition of innovative and creative redirection of the NIEHS/NTP programs."

Olden was one of 23 recipients nationwide and 1 of 9 recipients at the National Institutes of Health to receive the award, presented at ceremonies in Washington, DC, on May 9.

Olden was appointed director of NIEHS in June 1991. Under his leadership, a unifying vision of the NIEHS mission was developed through a series of planning retreats and external reviews in which research strengths and opportunities for the institute were identified.

Olden has initiated a dramatic change in direction for the



National Toxicology Program, bringing together the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors with 25 experts outside the NIEHS to make recommendations for improving the effectiveness of the program, as well as streamlining its procedures and making them more open. Olden also issued a strategic plan to guide NIEHS activities for the next 5-10 years, encompassing research priorities, goals for disease prevention, and a newly expanded role in effective communication of research data.

In nominating Olden for the award, Harold Varmus, director of the National Institutes of Health, said: "Dr. Olden has established new programs at NIEHS and phased out or reshaped others where necessary. He has already addressed some of the most critical and sensitive environmental health issues of our time, such as environmental justice and the integration of basic biomedical research into toxicology testing. More than ever, NIEHS is basic research-oriented and at the same time poised to address public health issues through prevention, intervention, and community outreach."